

Amendment and Remarks
Appln. No. 10/687,497
Page 5 of 8

Amendment to the Abstract

Abstract

A proximity warning system for a fireplace including a monitor module and an alarm module. The monitor module comprises a sensor and is configured to sense when an object, such as a person, entersis in a defined zone proximate to the fireplace. The monitor module may ~~use a variety of techniques to sense when an object enters the defined zone. For example, the monitor module may uses~~ the difference between a signal from the sensor capacitance and a signal from an adjustable reference element pre-adjusted to represent the absence of the object or pulse infrared light to detect when an object entersis in the defined zone. The alarm module is coupled to the monitor module to generate an alarm when the monitor module senses that the object ~~has entered~~ is in the defined zone.